3S *Out of the Blue* Keywords and phrases to help you generate ideas

Powerful Terror of sleepy beachside community

Sensitive material Tranquil opening

It refuses to glorify David Gray Story of true human courage

Terrifying moment in New Zealand history David Gray’s rampage is entirely redefined

Courage that tragedy can bring Strange

Terrible beauty Unnervingly quiet

Pity for Gray Familiar setting

Obsession Small ordinary details

No-fuss Kiwi modesty Eccentric

Sarkies doesn’t try to rationalise or justify Gray’s actions

Gray has both incomprehensible rage and insurmountable frailty

Cinematography thoughtfully reproduces not only the sleepy sun-drenched sea-side setting but also David Gray’s short sighted vision.

Extra information about the film:

* Sarkies and Tetley spent a week in Aramoana doing community interviews and inviting the public to talk to them to research the film.
* Residents were consulted on the script, they requested a change in title from *Aramoana* to *Out of the Blue*
* The only resistance about the making of the film came from Chiquita Holden. She was nine when she saw her father shot by Gray. She ran into a neighbouring house; her sister Jasmine and her friend Rewa both died there. Fourteen years later, she stood before Sarkies and Tetley and vigorously challenged them on their moral right to make this film. They argued for two hours and Holden left unconvinced. Sarkies continued to feel uncomfortable and six months later, when he and Tetley had a first draft, he contacted her, “but she wrote back and said her views had changed. It was coming up to the 15-year anniversary and she was recognising that the event was part of history.” In the end, she helped Sarkies out with factual details and art department, and so the film, they hope, comes to honour a community as much as mark an event.

“This wasn’t just an odd tale of someone who ended the lives of people that weren’t known to him: the gunman who stood on top of a bridge and fired at cars driving underneath, not much different from the kid who might throw a rock off,” White says. “There was something running much deeper and it involved a whole community.”

* Producer Tim White recalls news of the tragedy as ‘Like a bolt out of the blue’.

Key questions:

1. What part of the film was the most memorable for you and why?
2. What part of the film manipulated you the most? How do you think they manipulated you?
3. How is New Zealand portrayed in the film? Is it recognisable / familiar? What do you know about the history of Dunedin and the remoteness of setting?
4. How are the community portrayed in the film? How do they react to the event?
5. What limits does the film-maker have on him?
6. How does he overcome or deals with some of these limits?
7. How does the title relate to ideas in the film?
8. How effective was the film-maker in presenting this event? Give examples from the film.
9. Can you relate any of the work from theme study to the ideas presented in this film?